Personal Name Implementation Guidelines

Draft Proposal

For Discussion Purposes Only

Version 0.1

"NEWORG"

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Contents

01 Introduction

01.01 Purpose

This data standard covers Personal Name, hereinafter referred to as PersonName. Although this data standard attempts to encompass all cultures and languages throughout the world, it is not intended to be exhaustive, i.e., address every level and range of complexity that exists. Rather, it provides solutions to the most common cultural usages in a flexible generic extensible manner. It is targeted specifically for genealogical use, but it may be applicable for many other purposes. In addition, it is intended to provide useful input into the "NEWORG" data standards.

A Personal Names Data Standard is needed to improve the quality, reliability and use of Personal Name data for genealogical purposes as:
- no comprehensive data standard exists that addresses all cultures and languages of the world
- no standard has approved by any genealogy organization

01.02 Scope

The scope of this data standard (see Appendix 01 Logical Data Model) includes:
- PersonName primary table
  - entity
  - attributes
  - derived values
- PersonName attribute's domain tables
  - entity
  - attributes
- PersonName attribute's link tables
  - entity
  - attributes
- PersonName external tables
  - entity
  - attributes

This data standard does not include any details on its external tables that are linked to PersonName, i.e. Person, Place, LocaleParameter, Note and Citation tables, as they are specified in other Data Standards from "NEWORG".

This data standard primarily addresses the logical data model of the PersonName entity. It is based on the objective of obtain maximum data structure stability by using normalized data entities represented in tables. Any relaxation of the principle of normalization, if necessary, is deferred until subsequent development of the physical data model. This design approach is appropriate regardless of the implementation technology used.

01.03 Authority

This standard is being developed by the "NEWORG" Project Team. Currently "NEWORG" is not working with any genealogical or technological organization on this data standard. "NEWORG" would welcome the opportunity to do so.

01.04 Status

The status of this standard is a draft proposal. Constructive critiques and suggested improvements are welcome and can be sent by E-Mail to Neil Parker or "NEWORG".

01.05   Related Documents

This document is based on "Personal Name Data Standard Rationale" by "NEWORG" that contains the background, name conventions and objectives. In addition, for each major design issue, it contains problem, requirements, alternatives, analysis, conclusions and recommendations for the Personal Name Data Standard.

01.06   Copyright

<Boilerplate to be provided by "NEWORG">

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01.07   Design Strategy

This Data Standard is designed to incorporate and use other international (e.g. International Standards Organization (ISO) and The Unicode Consortium) or national standard that are effective and have achieved wide spread acceptance in the international market place so as to leverage our efforts. Therefor this standard references and utilizes:
- The Unicode Consortium Unicode Standard V6.0.0
- ISO Information technology - Syntactic metalanguage Extended BNF
- ISO Country Codes 2 Alpha
- ISO Language Codes 2 Alpha

01.08   <Editorial Notes

Editorial notes are shown in enclosed angle brackets and are meant to indicate:
- a comment by writer or reviewers
- an outstanding issue raise by the writer or a reviewer

Editorial notes will be deleted in subsequent versions.>

02   Implementation Guidelines

This appendix Implementation Guidelines for software developers to facilitate:
- increased data structure stability
- data extensibility
- data integrity
- data accuracy
- program maintainability

02.01   Unicode

The use of Unicode is essential to support all cultures and languages of the world including providing single character encoding of accented character to facilitate sorting.

02.02   Domain Table

It is strongly recommend that PersonName be implemented by reference to domain tables on the following name components and applicable secondary attributes:

- PersonNameType
- Title
- GivenName
- FamiliarName
- Family Name
- GenerationalTitle
- Designation
- Place
- Notes
- Citations
- NamePieceOrder

02.03   Link Tables

It is recommend that PersonName be implemented by reference to link tables and domain tables on the following name attributes:

- GivenNames
- FamiliarNames
- Designations
- Notes
- Citations

02.04   Values Storage

It is recommended that PersonName fields contain foreign key IDs to link to link tables and domain tables and that their actual value not be duplicated in the PersonName table unless acceptable performance cannot be achieved.

02.05   Existing Data

Existing data supplied by the user is accepted "as is" if it can be mapped to the new format until changed by the user. A warning message can be issued but the system should never change any user supplied data.